



City of St. Helens

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you see a new Storm Fee on your utility bill?

Background Information

For the majority of our citizens, this is not a new fee. In our city municipal code previously it was written that if a St. Helens customer had storm drainage that drained directly into an adjacent waterbody, these customers were not assessed a fee. In late 2019, City staff and Council discussed the decision to change our municipal code to ensure that all customers were paying a “fair-share” of storm drainage for the city’s utility system. When the change was approved by City Council in late 2019, this changed the municipal code so that every utility customer was assessed a storm utility fee for their impact on the city’s system as a whole. Just because your specific residential/commercial/industrial property does not have a storm drain in front of their property, it does not mean you will not see a fee. We all drive on the city streets and use the city street system, so it is important that every customer pays their fair share.

How Much & Where Does it Go?

For standard residential property, the fee is a flat amount per DRU (Draining Residential Unit). 1 house = 1 DRU. 1 DRU = \$11.71 per month Storm Fee. If you have a commercial or industrial property, this fee is individually assessed based on the amount of impervious surface on the property. The storm fee is used to maintain and operate and city’s storm infrastructure and operations.

How do I give feedback on this fee?

Please reach out by phone or leave a comment online at <https://www.ci.st-helens.or.us/contact>.

You may also speak during the visitor comments time at any public meeting. City Council meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM at City Hall located at 265 Strand Street or online via Zoom Meetings. Click on “Public Meetings & Minutes” under Your Government for updated meeting times, locations and links.